

1. (Currently amended) A reinforcement assembly ~~compact, fiber reinforced rod~~ for optical cables comprising:

a compact fiber reinforced rod comprising:

a plurality of elongated fiber members encased in a matrix of a UV cured vinyl ester resin material and, ~~;~~ and

an outer topcoat layer substantially surrounding said matrix, ~~said outer topcoat layer comprised of a thermoplastic hot melt resin of polybutylene terephthalate and polyether glycol copolymer material;~~ and

an upjacket substantially surrounding said compact fiber reinforced rod.

2. (Currently amended) The ~~reinforced rod~~ reinforcement assembly of claim 1, wherein said elongated fiber members comprises an E ~~-type~~ glass fiber member.

3. (Currently amended) The ~~reinforced rod~~ reinforcement assembly of claim 1, wherein said elongated fiber members comprises an S ~~-type~~ glass fiber member.

4. (Currently amended) The ~~reinforced rod~~ reinforcement assembly of claim 1, wherein said elongated fiber members are selected from the group consisting of E ~~-type~~ glass fiber members, an S ~~-type~~ glass fiber members, and combinations thereof.

5. (Currently amended) The ~~reinforced rod~~ reinforcement assembly of claim 1, wherein said elongated fiber members are selected from the group consisting of E ~~-type~~ glass fiber members, S ~~-type~~ glass fiber members, high strength synthetic strands of poly(p-phenylene-2,6-benzobisoxazole) fiber members, and combinations thereof.

6. (Currently amended) The ~~reinforced rod~~ reinforcement assembly of claim 1, wherein said UV cured vinyl ester resin material is selected from the group consisting of novolac vinyl ester and 1,6 hexane diol diacrylate copolymer material and novolac vinyl ester and dipropylene glycol diacrylate copolymer material.

7. Canceled

8. Canceled

9 - 22. Canceled

23. (Currently amended) The ~~reinforced rod~~ reinforcement assembly of claim 1, wherein said plurality of fibers ~~comprising~~ comprises:

- a plurality of E ~~-type~~ glass roving fibers; and
- a plurality of S ~~-type~~ glass roving fibers.

24. (Previously presented) The ~~reinforced rod~~ reinforcement assembly of claim 23, wherein said plurality of fibers further comprises a plurality of high strength synthetic strand members.

25. (Previously presented) The ~~reinforced rod~~ reinforcement assembly of claim 23, wherein said plurality of fibers further comprises a plurality of high strength aramid strands.

26. (Previously presented) The ~~reinforced rod~~ reinforcement assembly of claim 24, wherein said plurality of fibers further comprises a plurality of polyphenylene terephthalate strand members.

27. (Currently amended) The ~~reinforced rod~~ reinforcement assembly of claim 1, wherein said plurality of fibers comprises:

- a plurality of E ~~-type~~ glass roving fibers;
- a plurality of S ~~-type~~ glass roving fibers; and
- a plurality of high strength aramid strands.

28. (Currently amended) The ~~reinforced rod~~ reinforcement assembly of claim 1, wherein said plurality of fibers comprises:

- a plurality of E ~~-type~~ glass roving fibers;
- a plurality of S ~~-type~~ glass roving fibers; and
- a plurality of high strength polyphenylene terephthalate strands.

29. Canceled.

30. (New) The reinforcement assembly of claim 1, wherein said outer topcoat layer includes a thermoplastic topcoat layer.

31. (New) The reinforcement assembly of claim 1, wherein said outer topcoat layer includes a polybutylene terephthalate and polyether glycol copolymer topcoat layer.

32. (New) The reinforcement assembly of claim 1, wherein said outer topcoat layer includes an ethylene acrylic acid copolymer resin topcoat layer.